

THE LOUISVILLE WEEKLY COURIER--A CHEAP PAPER FOR THE MAN OF BUSINESS, THE FARMER, AND THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

WEEKLY COURIER

SATURDAY : : DECEMBER 29, 1855.

Notice!

All papers are necessarily discontinued at the expiration of the year, and the paper will be sold at the same low price of the paper now, and we hope to make it still more popular.

COS. RESPONDENTS SOLICITED.—We are always glad to hear from our friends, and will be pleased to receive personal letters, and the like, from the Mississ. Valley, containing important news, local gossip, &c.

Persons ordering their papers changed, are requested to name the office where it is received, as well as the date.

COS. CALIBERS can return postage stamps when convenient. By sending them, they will have no difficulty in making change for the fractional parts of a dollar.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

This document will be published by us immediately after its receipt, and extra copies with headings to suit, will be furnished country newspapers at \$1 per hundred copies, where 300 or more are ordered. Directions how to forward, and the case, should accompany all orders.

Christmas.

The most blessed of our fair few holidays is again with us. It is scarcely appreciable that a twelve-month has elapsed since we greeted our readers with the salutations of the season: "A Merry Christmas!" In time's record days and weeks that have gone are "nearly nought," and yet, how, during their progress, have the scenes and places of life shifted and changed; to what rude trifles and cheering words have we been subjected; how forms and smiles alternated in our overaching sky; with what perplexing problems in business and duty we have been tried; how his temptation, with his basilisk eye, allured us from the path of peace and the right, all powerful when exerted, sustained us in our daily contending with the evil.

But here we stand today. It is no time for retrospective, for the memories that belong here ill comport with the festivities and joyousness of the anniversary. Because love is dead, why need we weep forever? why go out and confront the world? why not be merry where we can and happy while we may?

The recurrence of the nat'l day of our best Friend and Teacher should bring happiness to every heart. To day we should remember our common lot and common humanity. Amidst the distraction and janglies, the shuddering and shuffling, the riot and the race of society, in spite of its small selfishness, its private animosities, its cares and its chieftain; while the bold and eager nature still presses on, and the gentle and generous shrink among the hindmost; although wrong and pitiless outrage bear sway; yet, to-day, in this blessed Christmas time, we are indeed madder than the mad, if the sweet sympathies of the season do not stir even our stolid souls; we are deeper than the deaf, if we cannot hear some faint echo of that celestial chorus which heralded peace and good will among men, still pulsing through our skies and still pealing to our better natures. In vain we observe the outward forms, in vain we adhere to the decorations and the ceremonies of the season, if we have not within which passeth show, if we have not herein full of loving kindness, one towards another.

There is, however, scarce time this morning for the indulgence of the sentimental incident to the occasion. We shall all—parents and children, lovers and friends—be so much occupied with the day and its duties, as to have no time to stop and consider all whom are opposed to its corrupt offices-seeking to give up all whom are dishonest and hèathen demagogues who, by their appeals to the noblest impulses of the human breast, basely seeking the advancement of their own self-interest. Such men, Heaven help us, will oppose as long as we have.

We shall, however, be more firmly and more resolutely, and more nobly, than ever, to the stirring of more inward fervor, to analyze the errors of the past. Rather, while thus enjoying the great fests, let us think of how in other lands and countries the occasion is being celebrated. It is indeed a pleasant thought, born of the universality of the custom, that for one day in the year there breathes throughout mankind a sentiment of peace and good will to men.

In England Christmas is a legal holiday. It is here, even more than in Germany, the festival of the firsmeide. It is the great eating-day of the British nation. The green-leaved, scarlet-berryed holly gleams in every window, and the mistletoe bough is pendant from the ceiling. The holly hung, the pearl-fruited branch from the ceiling, and become debon in the amount of a well-flavored, and doubtless well-flavored kiss to any gentleman who is cunning or persuasive enough to lead them, on Christmas eve or Christmas day. We can well imagine the fair ones protesting with all seeming earnestness against the usage which the pendant bough authorizes;—and we can also conceive how carefully they are to see that the said bough is suspended there in time for the pleasures of Christmas eve. No doubt, it is the last decoration that is removed when Christmas day is past.

But this is not all of Christmas in Protestant England. During the night preceding Christmas day, more particularly perhaps in the rural districts, parties of young men and women form themselves into volunteer choirs, and in the still hours of night visit the residences of their neighbors and sing their Christmas carols, sometimes accompanying vocal by instrumental music. During the morning or forenoon Divine worship is performed in the churches; during the remainder of the day domestic festivity and mirth are at their height. Eliza Cook thus throws the picture into a stanza:

It is the time when the gray old man
Lives broad and eyes bear'd o'er a graine,
When birds and song birds hear'd a' agane,
O, then is this the w'ne on the soul exult,
When loves and blis' be hands we dress,
Dress us, dress us.

In Germany the day is celebrated with certain domestic customs. Presents are interchanged between parents and children with much pleasure and ceremony, and "Knecht Rupert" performs duties similar to those undertaken by the ubiquitous Santa Claus in our country; if indeed the irreverent creation, the "Christkindl," to whom Rupert is servant, is not more upon a par with our stocking-filling, child-delighting midnight visitor.

But in Rome, Christmas is the peculiar season of festivity. The church call into requisition all their splendors for the decoration of their interior. The Madona and Child of each church are the special objects of attention. "The toilet of the Virgin," says a modern writer, "is performed, and she blazes in diamonds, or shines in tin, according to the richness of the respective parish treasures." "In the church of the Pantheon," says another writer, "the girl was crowned with gilt paper and decked with glass heads; and on the same day, in Santa Maria Novella, we beheld the cool-black face set off with rubies and sapphires, which glittered on her dusky visage like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear." Minstrels fill the streets with their minstrelsy—Fireworks throw out their brilliant scintillations, outshining the countless tapers in the churches, in each of which, and in many private dwellings, are erected representations of the Saviour's birth-scene—the stable, the shepherds and the oxen, and the Virgin Mary receiving homage. The performance of masses in the churches, and almost unceasingly reverly in the streets, complete the outline of Christmas day in Rome—and in due time generally.

Thus it is throughout the civilized world—wherever the story of Christ and the Cross has been proclaimed to the world, such and such a church immerses itself associating together the kindly, social feelings of men's natures, and best brings about the realization of that period when the long-promised era of "peace and good will among men" shall dawn upon us; and, hence, the whole world will join in celebrating a "HAPPY CHRISTMAS."

Evening Picture.—Such is the title of a sing little daily, which, unheralded, made its first appearance in our sanctum yesterday afternoon. It is published by Messrs. JOHNSON & BURKE, on Fifth street, in Marble Hall Building, at ten cents per week, and in politics is independent. Success to the enterprise.

LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD.—The synopsis of the act recently passed by the Tennessee Legislature, in behalf of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, as furnished us by Gov. Hahn, appears in another column. It will be read with interest by those who desire the completion of this great road.

The Louisville Hotel is to be closed four months, from and after the first of January, in order to undergo extensive alterations and improvements. The two wings are to be entirely rebuilt.

The telephone brings a report that by an arrival at St. Paul, Minnesota, authentic news of the fate of Sir John Franklin's party had been received. It may be true, but it looks rather like a fish story.

1856! FOURTEENTH YEAR OF THE LOUISVILLE WEEKLY COURIER!

The Largest, Best and Cheapest
Paper in the West!

BEST ATTRACTIOMS THAN EVER!

We again begin to record our thousands of readers in the great Mississippi Valley, that the fourteenth yearly volume of the WEEKLY COURIER commences on the ist of January 1856; and in making this announcement take occasion to return to the public the subscription rates, the high rate of favor with which our efforts to amuse and instruct have been received by the public. Few papers have attained to such a circulation, influence and popularity, as the WEEKLY COURIER, and we renew our pledge to spare no exertions or expense to maintain its high character as a reliable, energetic and enterprising new-paper.

We have a full and competent corps of editors engaged, whose names must be assured that every department,

NEWS, LITERARY, COMMERCIAL, MISCELLANEOUS AND AGRICULTURAL,

will receive requisite attention.

We are especially determined that its character

as a

FIRST CLASS FAMILY PAPER

shall be preserved; and for this we now have in our possession the manuscripts of several deeply interesting and well-written ORIGINAL STORIES, the publication of which we will commence with the first issue in January. We will also continue to furnish the best selected stories and sketches that appear in the best magazines and literary publications of the day.

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT will hereafter receive special attention. It will under the immediate control of H. P. BYRNE, engineer and writer in the West; and we venture to promise that this department, as far as the year 1856, he worth to our Farmer readers, more than times the cost of the paper.

THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT will continue to be under charge of the same corps of reporters we have had for years, and for fallness, reliability and accuracy, maintain the position it has

ALREADY.

THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT will receive special attention. It will be under the direction of Dr. J. Allen, of No. 30 Bond street, New York. Dr. Allen is well and favorably known in the West, having a large practice in dental surgery, and the like. We trust him to do his best for the welfare of our readers.

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MISCELLANY.

Our Olle Podrida.

(Composed for the Louisville Courier.)

WHERE ART THOU MY SISTER?

BY EDWARD STRICKLAND.

An exile now, I pass not hours since,
Alas! still call thee, lest thou never return.
Striving to live and breakes hast to own,
I grieve for this, who in the hour of strife
Dove's every man we do of peace and truth.
Whence art thou? I grieve for thyself,
And for me, who am in the world alone.

Where art thou, sister? I could fain come,
And other day, my feet-worn, which is oft,
Stan'rt--who have no memory of mine,
And a friend of the strength would,
With whom I have been, and still have,
With me, when wayward, her sun;

And sojourned words, my sun, how to move,
She, sun, then in her bosom, she had me.

I called out, she shuns me to me,
As I have seen, a woman, a woman, a woman,

A soft heart with pride and power, and
And memory of my need, and tears,
My wavy hair, and eyes, and smile,
I do it best, I do it best, I do it best.

Fair world! I grieve for the broken, and
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